

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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### FISH AND WILDLIFE IMPORTATIONS NEARLY 100,000,000 LAST YEAR, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Nearly 84,000,000 live fish and about 14,000,000 other animals were imported into the United States last year, Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton reported today.

Secretary Morton said that it is only in the past few years that records in any detail have been obtained at ports of entry by his Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Federal regulations effective in 1966 require the reporting of incoming live fish and wildlife.

Last year's imports included 83,867,029 fish, 10,767,796 shellfish, 2,109,571 reptiles, 687,901 birds, 572,670 amphibians, and 101,302 mammals.

The total of 98,106,269 wildlife imports exceeds the 1969 figure of 78,054,992.

The Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969 bars the import, except for certain educational and scientific purposes, of those species considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be threatened with extinction.

The Federal Government also seeks to prevent importation of infectious diseases such as hoof and mouth disease and harmful species such as fruit bats, mongooses, red whiskered bulbuls and walking catfish.

Live fish importations were mostly tropical fish for home aquariums. The reptiles included large numbers of lizards, snakes and turtles--species frequently favored as pets and often valuable in scientific experiments.

Frogs and toads, used primarily in educational research, comprised most of the amphibians. Of the mammals, 85,151 were primates. Many of the primates were rhesus monkeys from Southeast Asia, which are used in medical research.

The Port of New York continues as the principal port of entry, followed in importance by Miami, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. These four ports had more than 90 percent of the importations.